

EMSC

Update

New York State Department of Health
Bureau of Emergency Medical Services

Emergency Medical Services for Children Update

Vol. 5, Issue 2 2003

Special Workgroup of New York State EMSC Advisory Committee Explores Regionalized System of Pediatric Critical Care

In late February of this year, the New York State Department of Health, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Medical Services for Children program convened a special workgroup to focus discussion on the system of pediatric critical care in the state. The New York State EMSC Advisory Committee will collect and review information regarding pediatric critical care capabilities in New York State and recommend to the Department whether a regionalized system of pediatric critical care should be developed.

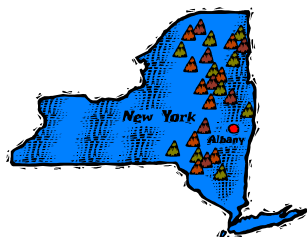
The aim of a regionalized system of pediatric critical

care would be to provide a continuum of care for the pediatric patient, including programs for illness and injury prevention, initial assessment, access, prehospital care, hospital-based emergency care, inpatient and specialized pediatric critical care, and rehabilitative services appropriate for children. Definitions and descriptions of the components of a system for critically ill or injured children are described in the American Academy of Pediatrics and American College of Critical Care Medicine's *Consensus Report for Regionalization of Services for Critically Ill or Injured Children*, Pediatrics, Vol.

105 No. 1, January 2000. Elements considered to be essential to this system of care are: 1) coordination at the state and regional level to ensure that responsibilities are met; 2) training, equipping, and supervising prehospital care providers; and 3) participation of emergency care facilities, interhospital transport systems, and pediatric critical care referral facilities.

Issues discussed by the workgroup included non-use of comprehensive hospitals' specialized pediatric transport teams, receiving late referrals for transfers, lack of integration with quality improvement systems, difficulties in

identifying patient flow patterns, issues pertaining to volume and quality of care, and varying inter-facility transport schemes. Two subcommittees were formed as a result of the meeting. One will focus on issues related to the pediatric critical care system outside of New York City, and will explore ways of improving the smooth functioning of the system and the integration of quality improvement and education processes. The other will begin to further define the system of pediatric critical care in New York City as it differs greatly from the rest of the state in terms of complexity. The workgroup, through its subcommittees, will report on its progress to the NYS EMSC Advisory Committee and the Department of Health, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services.



Activities Planned for SAFE KIDS Week May 3 – 10, 2003

National SAFE KIDS will be celebrating SAFE KIDS Week, May 3 – 10, 2003 through coalition activities taking place throughout the country. The theme for this year's weeklong observance is "Wrap Your Arms Around Safety."

New York State's SAFE KIDS Network consists of 10 local coalitions working to prevent unintentional injuries in children under 15 years of age. The causes of injury focused on include motor vehicle crashes, drowning, bike crashes, fire and scald burns, unintentional shootings, falls, poisonings and choking. Each local coalition brings together a cross section of community leaders who work to reduce unintentional injuries in their localities.

Highlights of activities planned by some of the SAFE KIDS coalitions throughout the state include: child safety seat checks, poison awareness and prevention educational activities, water safety education, fire prevention and home fire escape simulations, bike safety, and education about 911.

For information on how to contact a local SAFE KIDS coalition in your area, visit the National SAFE KIDS web site at www.safekids.org/state_display.cfm for a listing of New York State coalitions or contact Wendy Shindler, Statewide SAFE KIDS Coordinator, at (845) 368-5405.



EMS Week 2003 to Include EMSC Day

National EMS Week will be observed May 18 – 24, 2003. Once again, a special day has been designated as EMSC Day, which will occur on Wednesday, May 21st. The American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) has planning materials available that include ideas and information on EMSC Day. The Bureau of EMS will be mailing the packets to every NYS-certified EMS and First Responder agency.

EMSC Agencies may want to consider the following ideas for EMSC Day:

- Arrange to make a presentation at a school on how 911 works, what EMTs do, or present information on injury prevention such as the importance of buckling up;
- Arrange to hold an Infant/Child CPR course for parents and caregivers;
- Hold an Open House and include materials geared for young children on EMS and safety – obtain a downloadable copy or hard copies of the “EMSC Coloring and Activity Book” from the National EMSC Clearinghouse at www.ems-c.org, by clicking on products and resources, catalog, then injury prevention.
- Assist local police or others in holding a child safety seat check, hand out brochures/guides on child safety seats or booster seats, and obtain free materials from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration through their web site, www.nhtsa.dot.gov; or
- Conduct a bike safety rodeo or assist other public safety/emergency professionals in conducting one.

Whatever your plans, don't forget the children!

Also during EMS Week, a ground breaking has been scheduled at the Empire State Plaza for the long-awaited New York State EMS Memorial for May 22nd. The first memorial service will be held upon completion of the memorial and is expected to take place in May 2004.

SAVE THE DATE!

VITAL SIGNS 2003 will be held October 17-19, 2003 at the OnCenter in Syracuse, NY. Look for information and registration materials soon on the NYS DOH Bureau of EMS web page, www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/ems/vitalsigns.htm

Plans for Mid-Atlantic EMSC Regional Symposium Make Strides

Plans have been laid for the 2nd Annual Mid-Atlantic EMSC Regional Symposium, slated to take place June 4-6, 2003 at the Barcelo Hotel at Dupont Circle in Washington, D.C. EMSC representatives will be selected from each member state to attend the symposium to learn what other member states are addressing in EMSC and to hear from national experts.

New this year will be a one-day preconference session which will be a train-the-trainer course for ALS level EMS instructors on Children with Special Health Care Needs. The course, entitled, *Special Children's Outreach and Education Program (SCOPE)* received national recognition by the federal EMSC Program in 2002 and is expected to be published by Jones and Bartlett, Inc. in late 2003. The course covers common chronic illnesses, management of traumatically injured or seriously ill special needs children, transfer/transport, and includes skill stations on tracheostomy management, transportation and stabilization, and

management of central venous and feeding catheters.

Concurrent workshop sessions are expected to include the following themes: successful injury prevention collaborations, EMS practice based on outcome driven results, patient errors and other topics related to recently-released Institute of Medicine reports, and school health issues. For more information on the symposium, contact Gloria Hale, EMSC Coordinator, at (518) 402-0996, ext. 1,4.



Bureau of EMS Releases Statewide Pediatric Trauma Report

The New York State Department of Health, Bureau of EMS, EMSC Program recently released a report entitled, *The New York State Trauma System: A Special Report on Pediatric Trauma, 1994-*

1998. The report was developed in partnership with the State University of New York at Albany, School of Public Health. It was designed to provide an overview of statewide and regional pediatric trauma to assist a variety of trauma and EMSC stakeholders in planning and policy development efforts.

The report includes children ages 0-21 years who met the criteria for inclusion in the statewide trauma registry. Data was used from 1994 – 1998 from all designated trauma centers and community hospitals participating in the registry.

Some highlights of the report are:

- Pediatric patients represented 19% of all patients included in the trauma registry;
- The majority were males at 72.1%;
- The 15-19 year old age group had the highest percentage of pediatric trauma at 39.7%;
- Falls were the leading mechanism of injury, at 21.5%, followed closely by motor vehicle crashes at 20.7%;
- Those pronounced dead on arrival represented 2.4%;
- Less than 1% died in the emergency department;

- Most were transported to a participating hospital by ambulance, at 64.5%;
- Hospital transfers took place for 17.1% of all pediatric trauma patients in the registry; and
- Regional trauma centers treated 66.2% of these patients.

In addition, there were some interesting findings by trauma region. There are eight (8) trauma regions: Western New York, Finger Lakes, Central New York, Northeastern New York, Hudson Valley, New York City, Nassau, and Suffolk.

Findings include:

As a percentage of pediatric trauma patients included in the registry within a trauma region, the Western New York region had the highest at 25%;

- The Central New York trauma region had the highest percentage of pediatric motor vehicle crash patients, at 16.8%;
- The New York City trauma region had the highest percentage of pediatric trauma patients with fall injuries, at 26%;
- Assaults were also highest in the New York City trauma region, at 59.6%; and
- The Western New York trauma region had the highest percentage of sports and recreation injuries, at 20.6%.

Breakdowns within each trauma region include the following: gender and age; mechanism of injury; mode of transportation to the first hospital; whether transferred or not; deaths before admission; discharge disposition; and measures of functional independence.

For a copy of the full report, contact the Bureau of EMS at (518) 402-0996, ext. 2.

THINK FIRST of New York, Inc.

Did you know that in New York State there are seven (7) active chapters of the THINK FIRST, National Injury Prevention Foundation? The mission of The THINK FIRST Foundation is to prevent brain, spinal cord and other traumatic injuries among children and teens through the education of individuals, community leaders and the creators of public policy.

Injuries kill more people under the age of 34 than all other causes combined.

The primary strategy of THINK FIRST of New York, Inc. is to educate people about the severe and

permanent nature of traumatic injury, behaviors that put them at risk, the far reaching consequences to families and communities and methods of prevention. THINK FIRST believes that the nature of injury prevention is complex and requires a multifaceted approach. Activities support individuals, public and private organizations, businesses, and government initiatives and officials committed to the prevention of injury.



Each chapter of THINK FIRST in New York State does educational programs, mostly in schools, using either of the national THINK FIRST injury prevention programs entitled, THINK FIRST for Kids and THINK FIRST for Teens. Each program uses multi-media approaches to reach children with the message of prevention.

To obtain information on THINK FIRST programs in your area, contact the following individuals:

Central New York
University Hospital,
Rehabilitation Center
Contact: Mike Davison
(315) 464-2330

Greater New York City
Mt. Sinai Medical Center,
SCI Model System
Contact: Audrey
Schmerzler (212) 659-9369

Monroe County
Strong Memorial Hospital
Contact: Cathy Flanagan
(585) 442-2949

Northern Tier
Champlain Valley
Physicians Hospital
Contact: Donna Graham
(518) 562-7378

Oneida/Herkimer
St. Elizabeth's Hospital
Contact: Filomain Talerico
(315) 734-3097

Southern Fingerlakes
Arnot Ogden Medical
Center
Contact: Mary Ann Teeter
(607) 737-4426

Helpful Resources You Can Use

Handbook Available

The International Center to Heal Our Children (ICHOC) has created a new publication entitled, *The Handbook of Frequently Asked Questions Following Traumatic Events: Violence, Disasters, and Terrorism*. This handbook was developed to provide information about how to recognize normal child reactions to stress. It explains how to recognize and understand the stages of grief in children and youth and describes common ways that children of different ages cope with stress. In addition, it explains how to identify children who need help and are at risk for long term stress-related conditions. To download a free copy of the handbook, go to: <http://www.dcchildrens.com/about/institutehandbook.pdf>. Hard copies can also be obtained for a nominal fee by contacting:
Shula Lewin
Program Manager
ICHOC
111 Michigan Avenue, NW
W2.5-700
Washington, D. C. 20010
(202) 884-2434
e-mail: slewin@cnmc.org

Helping Schools Plan for Emergencies

The U.S. Department of Education has recently developed a new section on its web site to provide school leaders with more information about emergency preparedness. The site: <http://www.ed.gov/emergencyplan> is designed to be a one stop-shop to help school officials plan for any emergency, including natural disasters, violent incidents and terrorist acts.



Federal Funds Available Soon to Aid Schools in Emergency Preparedness

On March 6, 2003, U.S. Secretary of Education Rod Paige announced that \$30 million will be available in 2003 to help school districts improve and strengthen emergency response and crisis management plans. Funds could be used to train school personnel, parents and students in crisis response; coordinate with local emergency

responders; purchase equipment; and coordinate with groups and organizations responsible for recovery issues, such as health and mental health agencies. An additional \$30 million is included in the proposed FY 2004 budget. Applications for the funding program will be available in early spring 2003. Funding decisions are expected in the summer.

Preventing Medical Errors in Children

A new patient Fact Sheet entitled, *20 Tips to Help Prevent Medical Errors in Children*, is available from the federal Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). The AHRQ and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) have partnered to put this important information on how to prevent medical errors into the hands of pediatricians and parents across the country. It provides evidence-based, practical tips on avoiding medical errors related to prescription medicines, hospital stays, and surgery. The Fact Sheet will be distributed to all of the AAP's member pediatricians, as well as to groups representing children and parents. To download a free copy, go to

the AHRQ or the AAP web sites at:

<http://www.ahrq.gov/consumer/20tipkid.htm>

or

<http://www.aap.org/visit/qualityimprovement.htm>

A hard copy can also be requested through the AHRQ's Publications Clearinghouse (Publication #02-P034), P.O. Box 8547, Silver Spring, MD 20907, by calling 1-800-358-9295, or through electronic request at ahrqpubs@ahrq.gov.

Children's Health Highlights

An updated version of the AHRQ's publication, *Children's Health Highlights*, is available. This program brief provides an overview of current AHRQ programs, activities, and priorities in health care research for children and adolescents, as well as summaries of selected findings from recent AHRQ-supported research projects. To download a free copy, go to: <http://www.ahrq.gov/child/highlights/chhigh1.htm>. A copy can also be obtained from the

AHRQ's Publications Clearinghouse (publication #03-P008) by calling 1-800-358-9295 or through electronic request to: ahrqpubs@ahrq.gov.

The New York State Department of Health, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services, EMSC Program welcomes newsworthy contributions for *EMSC Update*. If you or your organization works to decrease severe illness or injury in children in New York State and/or you are working to improve the continuum of emergency care for children, please feel free to contact Gloria Hale, EMSC Coordinator, at (518) 402-0996, ext. 1,4.

If your mailing address has changed or you no longer wish to receive *EMSC Update*, please contact the Bureau of Emergency Medical

Services at (518) 402-0996, ext. 1, 4.

Issues of *EMSC Update*, including back issues, are available for viewing or downloading on the Department of Health web site at: <http://www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/ems/nysemisc.htm>. New York State Regional EMS Program Agencies may also have current or back issues available for viewing on their web sites. Contact information for these agencies may be found at the Department of Health, Bureau of EMS web page also.

Lastly, for any questions regarding initiatives of the NYS EMSC Program please contact Gloria Hale, MPH, EMSC Coordinator, or Marjorie Geiger, Assistant Director, New York State Department of Health, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services, 433 River Street, Suite 303, Troy, New York 12180. Phone: (518) 402-0996, ext. 1, 4.

EMSC Update is made possible, in part, through funding provided from project grant H33 MC 00069A0, EMSC Program, MCHB, HRSA, USDHHS, and NHTSA.